



LAMENTABLE LINES ON THE
BURNING
OF THE
“COSPATRICK”

You feeling-hearted Christians wherever that you be,
I hope you'll pay attention to my sad tragedy,
Til I relate the hardships great of the passengers and crew
On board of the “Cospatrick,” so lately has went thro’.

From London, in September last, this fine ship she set sail
For Auckland, in New Zealand, with a sweet and pleasant gale,
With near five hundred souls on board, and forty of a crew,
Who were chiefly Irish emigrants, going their fortunes to pursue.

As they left the dock that morning they on her deck did throng,
And made the air for to resound with music and with song,
All hearts were light and merry, hoping to spend their lives
With comfort in New Zealand, with their families and wives.

For two long months and better this gallant ship did glide
O'er the foaming billows, braving both wind and tide ;
'Till the 17th of November, that sad evening did appear,
When the cry of ship on fire was given, which filled each heart
with fear.

It was most heart-rending then to hear the agonizing cries
Of those ill-fated passengers when the fire did arise,
All scorched and scars from burning spars while standing on her
deck,
Plunging themselves into the sea 'ere she became a wreck.

Some mothers caught their children thinking their lives to save,
And jumped into the ocean where they met a watery grave,
And others they were seen next day, floating among the rest,
With their little babies burned to a cinder on their breast.

It was an awful sight to see both passengers and crew
Between both fire and water, not knowing what to do,
Rushing frantic thro' the flames and smothering for breath,
Whole families together have all been burned to death.

The captain and his lady done a'll they could afford
In trying to save the precious lives of those that were on board,
Till she burned to the water's edge, he struggled manfully,
Then he had to take his wife and child and leap into the sea.

Now to conclude this tragedy let each good Christian pray
For the souls of those poor creatures that were burned in the sea,
Out of near five hundred passengers who in this ship did sail,
There were only three souls left alive to tell this awful tale,